SELECTIONS

p.3)

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

Received up to 25th October, 1879.

POLITICAL.

THE Anjumani Panjab of the 17th October refers to the Circulation, withdrawal of the British Embassy The withdrawal of the from Mandalay, and remarks that it British Embassy from Mandalay. shows that the Government of India is very angry with King Theebaw. The Government cannot overlook his misdeeds, and ere long will punish him severely. He has cruelly murdered many princes of the royal family since his accession to the throne. Moreover, he expressed great joy when he heard of the massacre of our Kabul Embassy. He deserves to be deposed from the throne as soon as possible. Is he not acquainted with the power of the British Government that he has foolishly insulted it? Does he not know that the ex-King of Oudh, the late Nawab of Tonk, and the ex-Gaekwar were deposed from their thrones in an instant for misconduct? Is he not aware of the fate of the Amir Sher It is high time that he should apologise to and Ali Khan?

408 copies.

conciliate the Government. But there is no hope that he will do so. His fate is sealed.

Circulation, 475 copies. The Rahbar-i-Hind of the 20th October approves of the proclamation issued at Kabul by Sir Frederick at Kabul by Sir Frederick Roberts, and remarks that it is based on justice and mercy, and shows the humanity of the British Government. We hope that the subordinate officers will enforce the provisions of the proclamation with great care, and that the military Governor of Kabul will exercise a strict check over their proceedings. Lord Lytton is deserving of high praise for this proclamation.

Circulation, 475 copies. The native soldiers of India in thinking that the Govern-killed in the defence of the Kabul Residency.

the wives and children of the native soldiers who were killed in the defence of the Kabul Residency in recognition of their loyalty. The writer also appeals to the native community to contribute subscriptions for the erection of a monument at Lahore, and of another at Kabul, or some place on the frontier, in honor of the soldiers.

Circulation, 719 copies.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 23rd October, in regard to the determination of the Amir Yakub The resignation of the Amir of Kabul. Khan to resign the Amirship, remarks that his life is full of misfortunes. Although nature made him a good statesman and a good soldier, the repeated misfortunes to which he has been exposed have rendered him quite unfit to rule over his people. To our thinking he has done an act of great wisdom that he has abdicated the throne. If he has not done so now, he will have to do it after some time. There is no doubt that he could not have kept himself much longer The Government of India should assign some on the throne. beautiful tract of country in India for his residence, and give him a suitable allowance for his support.

The killing of the Afbans captured in battle. Bala Hissar by General Roberts, but condemns the killing of the Afghans who were captured in battle. Our troops, says the writer, had to fight only one battle. They obtained the victory and chased the enemy to the Bala Hissar. News has been received from the front that those Afghans who were taken captives in the battle were shot. If this news is true, it is to be deeply regretted. It is cruel to kill a captive. If the captives were killed, we are inclined to believe that they were

killed not with the permission of General Roberts but by some

mistake. True, the Afghans cruelly massacred our Embassy,

but if we avenge the massacre in a cruel way, what will be

the difference between a barbarous and a civilised people?

Circulation, 155 copies.

The Berar Sumachar of the 19th October states that although Afghanistan is obviously no The Kabul war. match for the British power, the present Kabul war is a source of great anxiety to the public, and the Government has made larger preparations for the expedition than the strength of the enemy seems to necessitate. The cause of the popular anxiety and the large preparations on the part of the Government is that it is generally feared that Russia will probably render aid to the Afghans. This apprehension is not absolutely unfounded. Russia sent an Embassy to Kabul, which led to the late war. It is also suspected that she instigated the massacre of our Kabul Embassy. Moreover, she has lately sent a large force towards Afghanistan. In these circumstances it is not only the duty both of the native chiefs and the people to assist the Government on the present occasion, but it is also advisable to do so on several grounds, which are as follows:-

First.—That formerly the Afghans repeatedly invaded India and killed thousands of the natives, and that, therefore,

Circulation, 250 copies.

we should avail ourselves of this opportunity to avenge their deaths.

Secondly.—That great evil will accrue to us from the establishment of Russian rule in place of the British in India. Some of our countrymen may be of opinion that we need not oppose the invasion of the Russians, inasmuch as we have no national rule in the country, and it is all the same to us whether the English or the Russians rule over us, but they are mistaken. It is difficult to realise that the Russians wish to take possession of India, which will involve great expense and loss of life, from disinterested motives. Although the British have been ruling over us for more than a century, their avarice has not been diminished so much as it ought to have been. Hence it is easy to conceive how great would be the avarice of the Russians if they succeeded in establishing their rule in the country. Owing to our long contact with Englishmen, we have begun to sympathise with each other; we appreciate the merits of their rule, and they appreciate our loyalty, and, therefore, we are convinced that in the course of time they will grant us equal rights and privileges with themselves. In these circumstances our own interests require the continuance of their rule. The Russians are a very treacherous people. They are using the Afghans as a cat's-paw. We should avoid contact with them as far as possible.

The Jaipur Gazette of the 18th October makes the following remarks about the attacks made by some Anglo-Indian newspapers against the Maharaja of Kashmir:—

The hue and cry raised against Kashmir by some of the Indian and English papers are sufficient to create suspicion in the minds of native princes that the days of annexation are not gone as yet. We characterised those writings as silly, simply owing to their mischievous tendency, which is patent to every right thinking man. At first these writers

were loud in decrying the administration of Kashmir for their inability to cope with the fearful famine, which has been ravaging the country for the last three years, and charged the Maharaja of the place not only with absolute apathy in redressing the sufferings of the poor, but with the serious crime of having ordered a large number of poor starving people to be drowned in lake Wula. All these charges have proved unfounded, and some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries have been obliged to draw in their horns; but we now see some of our Anglo-Indian friends have come out in the columns of the Times as self constituted champions for the deliverance of the poor wretched people of Kashmir. The charge of inadequacy of famine measures has given room to the general mismanagement of the State, and the apathy of the Maharaja to the insecurity of the Kashmir frontier against foreign invasion. It is high time for our Government to step in and put a stop to such gross slanders, and allay the fears which the silly writings of these mischievous writers are calculated to create."

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Nasimi Agra of the 20th October briefly refers to the correspondence that has passed between

The Qaisar ul-Akhbar and the Magistrate of Alla-habad. correspondence that has passed between the magistrate of Allahabad and the editor of the Qaisar-ul-Akhbar in

regard to an article lately published by the latter about the alleged misconduct of Mr. Buck towards a kanungo, and remarks that the passing of the Press Act not only showed the hostility of Government towards the vernacular press, but has encouraged the district magistrates to interfere and threaten the editors of vernacular newspapers for small things. Europeans are at pressent very sensitive to public criticism. But it should be observed that if their acts were not criticised, their conduct towards the natives would in the course of time become so bad that it might cause disaffection in the minds of the latter against Government itself. If a newspaper attacks

Circulation, 150 copies.



the Government, the magistrate can, with its permission, take the editor to task. But he has no legal power to interfere when a newspaper propagates a rumour against any individual, even if that rumour is false. Moreover, the interference of the magistrates in such cases simply shows that they do not like that the conduct of their countrymen should be criticised and reformed, which obviously does not suit the men of a civilised nation like the British. But a ruling nation should always strictly watch its conduct and remedy its defects. We are also now and then taken to task by the magistrate of Agra. The last warning we received from him was on the occasion of our publishing an account of the quarrel that took place between some military officers and some men of the Mevati caste (vide the Selections for the week ending the 5th June, 1879, page 442). In accordance with the order of the commissioner he sent for the proprietor, warned him for the future, and advised him to publish a contradiction of his former statement. But we did not think it advisable to ventilate the matter at the time. There seems to be no reason why the Government officers should undertake to defend the conduct of every European. If this is the wish of the Government, it is not necessary to maintain the judiciary. It is surprising that a mere statement, to say nothing of an oath, made by a European is considered as Gospel-truth by officers. If a native newspaper brings a charge against a European, and he denies the charge, the officers readily accept his denial. Even if we consider Europeans as virtuous as angels, we should accept their statements, in matters in which they are personally interested, with hesitation, because some angels themselves have sinned, and been expelled from the presence of God. It is well-known that Mr. Saunders, the judge of Farukhabad, declared that he treated Pandit Har Sahai with courtesy, and that the latter assaulted him without provocation, but another European who was appointed to inquire into the case did not find his statements to be well founded. The Government of India should not allow the magistrates to attack the native papers through prejudice in this way, otherwise it will have no means of becoming acquainted with the grievances of the natives and the misconduct of Europeans. It should always remember that the editors of native papers are not its enemies, because they are convinced that they cannot possess such liberty nor can the people enjoy such ease and comfort under any other Government. But they are anxious that no stain should be fixed on the fair fame of the British rule through the misconduct of Europeans.

The same paper argues that the next examination of the The next High Court candidates for the different grades of pleaders' examination. pleaders in the North-Western Provinces should be held at least two months later than usual, on the following grounds:—

First.—That the candidates unacquainted with English have only one more chance to pass the examination, because the new examination rules will be enforced from 1881.

Secondly.—That many candidates unjustly suffered at the last examination through the misconduct of others. The examination committee suspected the use of unfair means on the part of the candidates to pass the examination, and the result was that those candidates who would have been otherwise placed in the first grade were placed in the second, those who would have been placed in the second were placed in the third, and those who would have been placed in the third failed.

Thirdly.—That the results of the last examination were not published until about eight months had expired from the date of the examination, so that the unsuccessful candidates had only four months to prepare themselves for the next examination. But that period has been unfortunately still further reduced by the prevalence of fever, which has been raging with great severity for some time throughout the

North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and the Panjab. There are few who have escaped it. There is reason to expect that it may vanish by the end of October or the middle of November, when the weather changes. In this way only one and a half or two months will be left for the candidates to prepare themselves for the next examination, which is obviously a very small period.

In the end the writer states that if the candidates submit a petition to the High Court praying for the postponement of the next examination, on the above grounds, the Court will probably comply with their request.

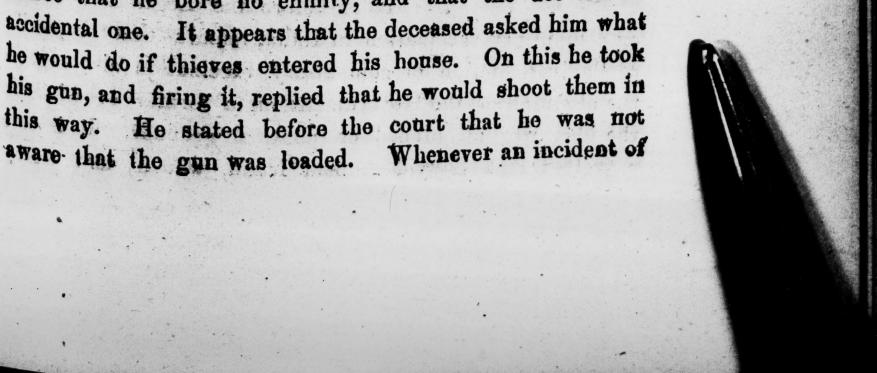
The same paper, in an article headed "The native's spleen and the European's blow," states that The deaths of natives it is well-known that in every case in caused by the blows of Euwhich the death of a native is caused by the violence of a European, the doctor who holds a post mortem examination ascribes the death of the deceased to a rupture of the spleen, and the accused is generally sentenced by the magistrate to a small fine under section 223° of the Indian Penal Code. If in all such cases the spleen of the deceased is ruptured, it is obvious that the kicks and blows of Europeans are strong enough to rupture the spleens of the In all such cases the doctors are accustomed to natives. declare that the spleen of the deceased was diseased, but a little reflection will show how far this statement is true. As the climate of England is colder than that of India, Englishmen are generally stronger than the natives. Moreover, a well-to-do Englishman eats very nutritious food every day, such as flesh, milk, &c., while a poor native lives on coarse grains, which do not cost him more than an anna a day. it is evident that Europeans are much stronger than the poor classes of natives. The blows of the former are sufficient to kill the latter, even though the spleens of the latter are not diseased. A kick by a strong bull is sufficient to kill a

[•] The writer obviously means section 323.

weak ox, or a push by a buffalo to kill a lamb. When it is proved by experience that natives succumb to the blows of Europeans, every European, who causes the death of a native by blows, should be convicted of culpable homicide, inasmuch as he was aware that his blow would prove fatal to the deceased. In such cases the medical evidence should not be considered conclusive. The opinions of doctors have often proved erroneous. When the death of a native is caused by the rupture of the spleen, the circumstances of the case do not confirm the medical evidence that his spleen was diseased. On the contrary his good health and the fact that he performed his ordinary duties are calculated to refute it. In these circumstances we are induced to imagine that the doctors declare the spleens of the deceased natives to be diseased when they are only weak, as has been above pointed out, in order to obtain the acquittal of their countrymen. We hope that our able administrators will feel pity for the weak spleens of the natives, and adopt adequate measures for their protection, and that our judges will not strain the letter of the law to save the accused from that punishment which they justly deserve.

The Shola Tur, Campore, of the 21st October, states that Anative chankidar killed on the 13th October a European Serby a European Serjeant of jeant of the Commissariat Department the Commissariat Department, Cawapore. shot a native chaukidar at Cawnpore, who immediately died. The magistrate made an inquiry into the case, and found that the Sergeant did not shoot the deceased with the intention of killing him. He was accordingly released on the following day, and returned to his house rejoicing. Some persons say that the Sergeant bore enmity against the deceased, but we have heard from a reliable source that he bore no enmity, and that the act was an accidental one. It appears that the deceased asked him what he would do if thieves entered his house. On this he took his gun, and firing it, replied that he would shoot them in this way. He stated before the court that he was not

Circulation, 250 copies.



this kind occurs the accused is always acquitted in accordance with the law. In our opinion it is worth while to revise the law with a view to amendment, because the life of a man is not like that of a worm or insect. When a person who is guilty of murder is punished with death, there must be some punishment for the person who causes the death of another by negligence. In such cases the Muhammadan law provides the payment of the diyat or blood-money, and the Hindu law enjoins the performance of a penance as described in the Mitakshara and other books. If the law provided no punishment for the offence of causing death by negligence, every person would kill his enemy and escape punishment by alleging that he did so by negligence. The Government has wisely provided imprisonment for a term which may extend to three (sic) years for this offence in Act XXVII. of 1870. If the provisions of this Act were strictly enforced both in the case of Europeans and natives, persons would be more careful in future in committing any act which was likely to cause death. The acquittal of some Europeans charged with homicide has raised many suspicions in the minds of the people. that their lives are considered of no value, that the judges show partiality to Europeans, that Act XXVII. of 1870 applies only to them and not to Europeans, and so on. The action taken by the Government of India in the Fuller case removed these suspicions to a large extent. The judges should decide such cases more carefully, and convince the natives that both they and the Europeans are subject to the same law.

The same paper, in regard to the memorandum submitted by the Hon'ble Sayyid Ahmad Khan before the Legislative Council on compulsory vaccination in India, remarks that the question of the introduction of compulsory vaccination also engaged the attention of the Government on a former occasion, but the idea was abandoned on political grounds. It is to be regretted that Sayyid Ahmad Khan, who is, as it were, a

representative of the people at the Council, has revived the question without paying sufficient attention to the fact that the measure he advocates will if passed be very unpopular. The chief reason why the practise of vaccination has not become general is that the people do not yet appreciate its advantages, as has been stated by him in his memorandum. Compulsion will only strengthen the prejudices which the ignorant classes have against vaccination and produce discontent. No wise Government will ever compel its subjects to take any medicine, especially any particular medicine, for any disease against their will. Villagers are already sometimes much harassed by vaccinators, but when vaccination becomes compulsory, they will be still more harassed, and a great deal of the valuable time of the officers will be wasted in dealing with offences against the Vaccination Act. The best way to encourage vaccination will be to acquaint the people with its advantages. The native hakins and vaids should be required to assist the Government in this matter, and a better class of vaccinators should be employed. persons refrain from vaccinating their children simply because they cannot find good vaccinators.

The Akhbar-i-Am of the 15th October (received on the 19th idem) states that habitual crimi-The treatment of prisoners in jails. nals are at present compelled to work at grain-mills or do other laborious work at jails, but still they do not refrain from committing offences. As soon as they are released they commit another offence in order that they may be again imprisoned. There is no doubt that the convicts are much better off than the poor classes at large. The latter are exposed to great difficulty and care in earning a livelihood. If high prices continued to rule the market for a long time, we would not be surprised if the poor purposely committed crimes in order that they might be sent to prison. In the face of this our Auglo-Indian contemporaries propose that convicts should be taught industrial arts. They say that the system of employing them

Circulation, 1,245 copies.



on industrial arts will prove more remunerative than that of making them work at the grain-mills, &c., but that in that case the Government will of course have to give them more nourishing food than it does at present. If the suggestions of our contemporaries were adopted, imprisonment would cease to have any deterrent effect upon criminals. When they see that they will get nourishing food at the jail, and will be taught industrial arts, they will not object to go there. It should be remembered that jails are not established by Government to obtain revenue therefrom, but to punish the criminals in a way which may deter others from committing crimes.

Circulation, 170 copies. The Safir-i-Hind, Amritsar, of the 18th October, publishes

The collection of baggage animals by tahsildars in the Panjab for the transport service on the frontier. a short article in the form of a dialogue hetween three tahsildars. One of them states that he is very busy at present collecting baggage animals

and kahars for the transport service on the frontier; that he has frequently to place men in the havalat to induce them to go to the frontier, and that if he acted in strict accordance with the law, he would not be able to collect any animals or men. Another says that he does not place men in the havalat but beats them with shoes. The third one says that fortunately he is able to collect animals and men without using any kind of force. The editor warns these tahsildars against oppressing the people, and refers to the cases of some late tahsildars of the Panjab who were imprisoned for committing some illegal acts.

Circulation, 105 copies. The Jalua Tir, Meerut, of the 16th October (received Jhabba Singh, a late on the 19th idem), states that on the Risaldar-Major and propositionary tahsildar of Risaldar-Major, from active service, the Government of India, at the request of the Commander-in-Chief, issued a circular order to the local Governments and Administrations recommending the bestowal of a respect-

able civil appointment upon him in recognition of his loyal services to the State. The commissioner of Meerut sent for him through the magistrate of Moradabad and appointed him a tahsildar about one and a quarter years ago. He was at first placed in charge of the Ghaziabad tahsil, He remained there six or seven months and discharged his duties satisfactorily. He was then transferred to Meerut and did his work well. A few days ago he received an order to the effect that he should appear at the tahsildars' examination which will be held on the 28th October; and that he should make over charge of his office and not resume it until the examination has been finished. Accordingly he made over charge of his office on the 1st October. It is surprising that only one month's notice has been given him to prepare himself for the examination, which is obviously insufficient. Some tabsildars have regularly appeared at the examination for the last four years, but still they have not passed it. Then how will poor Jhabba Singh be able to prepare for it in one month? It will be unjust to dismiss him in this way.

The Khair Khwah-i-Panjab of the 21st October publishes

Some reforms proposed an article in the form of a dialogue
by the Khair Khwah-iPanjab in connection with
courts in the Panjab.

The Khair Khwah-i-Panjab of the 21st October publishes
an article in the form of a dialogue
between two persons, the substance of
which is as follows:—

Circulation, 700 copies.

- (1). That the misil khwáns should be required to pass an examination in law. As they are generally not acquainted with law, they sometimes commit great mistakes in the routine.
- (2). That a shed for suitors should be constructed near the courts at every place, the cost being paid from the fine fund, the waste paper fund, or the district fund.
- (3). That in every case the witnesses should be examined on the same day on which they are first summoned to court. Sometimes they have to attend the court for several days before they are examined.

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- (4). That no person of bad character should be allowed to hang about a court, nor should the native officers have anything to do with such persons.
- (5). That chaprasis attached to courts should be transferred every month from one court to another. When a chaprasi has long been with an officer, he tells the suitors that he has great influence over the officer and extorts bribes from them.
- (6). That officers should try to finish every case in three sitting at the outside.
- (7). That in accordance with the orders of the Lahore Chief Court no subordinate court should delay the decision of any case more than two months except for some special reasons.
- (8). That one of the judges of the Chief Court should inspect the subordinate courts every three months.

Circulation, 475 copies.

The Rahbar i-Hind of the 20th October states that it is rumoured that Vazir Khan and Sultwo native servants of the Irrigation Department, Amritsar, charged with Irrigation Department at Amritsar, taking bribes and charged with having taken bribes,

have been dismissed from the service. The writer considers this punishment very inadequate, and urges that they should be made over to the magistrate for trial.

LOCAL.

Circulation, 650 copies.

A correspondent of the Aftab-i-Panjab of the 17th October, in regard to the assessment of the license tax at Batala, Gurdaspur.

ber, in regard to the assessment of the license tax at Batala, complains that some poor persons have been over-

taxed.

The management of the

etates of the Raja of Jaun-

A correspondent of the Kavi Vachan Sudha of the 20th

October, referring to a dispute which the Jaunpur State has with some mahajan regarding a hundi, remarks

that the collector of Jaunpur should appoint a respectable and honest man to settle the dispute. Those natives of Benares, into whose hands he has at present placed the matter, are very dishonest. They themselves are the cause of the dispute. They dishonestly appropriated some money when the hundi was written.

Circulation, 275 copies.

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List of papers examined—(concluded).

NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION,
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1	•	Urdu	Tri-monthly, Nusrat	Ali		Octr. 19th	300 copies.
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